

THE WESTERN FARM LEADER

CO-OPERATION PUBLIC AFFAIRS SOCIAL PROGRESS

Vol. 19

CALGARY, ALBERTA, DECEMBER 17th, 1954
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No. 23

FARM CONVENTIONS DEAL WITH MAJOR PROBLEMS

Thinks Likely Marketing Act Will Be Passed

President AFA Expects Legislation at Forthcoming Session in Edmonton

DISCUSSES PROBLEMS

Alberta Producers' Prospects Seen in National and World Setting

EDMONTON, Dec. 15. — "If we can obtain the right to exercise more authority in regulating sales and in price negotiations pertaining to the sale of our products, I am quite confident we can further improve our economic position. I can only say that I think we will get legislation at the forthcoming session."

This was a declaration of Roy C. Marler, president of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture which represents more than fifty farm organizations in the Province, in the course of his address to the annual meeting of the Federation here today. If the farmers did not get the legislation now he could think of no new approach.

Meetings Bring Confidence

Mr. Marler's confidence was based in large measure upon the success of meetings held in nearly all provincial constituencies during the fall, in cooperation with FUA district directors and members and officials of FUA locals. They had the goodwill of the Alberta government in their organization, and MLAs in the constituencies attended and took part in the discussions. The purpose is to obtain workable legislation under the terms of which marketing boards for farm products may be set up by the producers themselves. The board of directors reported that "much more favor for marketing legislation than had been generally anticipated" was indicated by the cross-section of farmers' opinions which found expression at the meetings. The board also reported that as the result of action taken at the CFA Western Conference and subsequent committee meetings, important information had been obtained on hog marketing possibilities. Members of the Ontario Hog Marketing Board and Ontario hog producers individually had been interviewed.

See Alberta's Decision Crucial

The conclusion reached from all investigations was that "import-
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Farmers' Union of Alberta Elects Officers for 1955



—Courtesy Edmonton Journal.

During the closing session of the large convention of the Farmers' Union of Alberta in Edmonton the delegates elected three executive members, the president and the vice-president having been elected previously. Left to right are Archie L. Hogg, High River; Mrs. W. C. Taylor, Wainwright; FWUA President Mrs. C. T. Armstrong; President Henry G. Young, Millet; Andrew B. Wood, Dewberry; and Vice-President C. J. Stimpfle.

Western Farm Leader Sold to Farmers' Union Western Producer

Will Be Incorporated in Saskatoon Weekly

Agreement has been entered Western Producer" in accord into for the purchase of "The Western Farm Leader" by due to them under the terms of "The Western Producer" published by Modern Press, the printing and publishing division of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

After this issue "The Western Farm Leader" will be incorporated in "The Western Producer", with which the editor of this paper will be associated.

Paid in advance subscribers will receive copies of "The Western Producer" in defence and promotion of the interests of the farm people.

Ask Rail Grading Be Optional

Meeting in Edmonton last week, the Provincial Swine Breeders' Association asked that the Federal government make it optional to producers to market their hogs by rail or live-grading.

SHEEP MEN ELECT OFFICERS

Succeeding G. Lewis of Sanguo, Charles Stephens of Edmonton was elected president of Alberta Provincial Sheep Breeders' Association at their annual meeting in Edmonton last week.

Tolerant, Enthusiastic — Continues AFA Affiliation — H. Young Given Acclamation

EDMONTON, Alta. — In a convention which in attendance, enthusiasm, and in the combination of vigor in debate with tolerance and unity in spirit was outstanding among recent gatherings of the farmers' primary organization, the Farmers' Union of Alberta unanimously re-elected Henry G. Young of Millet for a fifth term as president; and assured continuance of its affiliation with the Alberta Federation of Agriculture. This assurance was given by the tabling by a large majority, of an amendment to the constitution which would have eliminated a section which provides for such affiliation. The delegates re-
(Continued on page 3)

Wheat Board Doing Outstanding Job, Says Farm Union President

AN outstanding job" in general, is being done by the Wheat Board, declared President Henry Young, in his annual address to the FUA convention in Edmonton last week. "I shudder to think what would have happened to grain prices under the conditions of the past two years, if our tremendous volume of grain had been thrown on the open market."

Would Have Meant Bankruptcy

Mr. Young did not believe that any more grain could have been sold by any other method, except at a price that "would have bankrupted western agriculture and every business depending upon it." On the questions of purchase of feed grains by farmers from elevators, and of screenings, however, Mr. Young felt that explanations should be made by the Wheat Board.

Urge Domestic Parity Price

Mr. Young advocated a "parity price" for wheat sold for Canadian consumption; he estimated that this would give an average of 6.1 cents per bushel more (on average yearly deliveries of 357 million bushels,) and would cost consumers only one additional cent a loaf.

Discussing producer marketing, Mr. Young commended the campaign carried on by the AFA, and said that the

Provincial Government, in intimating that if the majority of farmers want producer marketing legislation they would enact it, were taking "a proper attitude towards such questions."

In his survey of general conditions, Mr. Young declared that the farmers' position is deteriorating steadily. While gross income is high, the costs of modern farming are also high, he pointed out.

More for MP's — Less for Farmers

The Canadian economy, he said, was based on "high profits, high wages, salaries, etc. Last winter our Members of Parliament officially confirmed this fact by raising their own salaries from \$6,000 to \$10,000, an increase of 80 per cent. Cabinet ministers awarded themselves still higher increases. Still, in face of all this, some of these same people apparently think that the western farmer can stand any amount of reduction in his net income."

Unless agriculture, the basic industry, were kept in a sound position, said Mr. Young, "the collapse of our whole high-cost, high-debt economy

Starts Fifth Term



Henry G. Young of Millet (above) was given an acclamation when the annual meeting of the Farmers' Union of Alberta elected him last week for his fifth term. No one else was nominated, though one delegate on the floor gave the name of Andrew B. Wood of Dewberry. Mr. Wood, who was in the chair quickly retorted with a smile that according to the rules no one could be nominated unless the person named was willing to give his consent — clearly indicating that that ended that.

is inevitable."

Where Debt Is Growing

Dealing with the Alberta situation, the president commented that while the Provincial debt is now a thing of the past, debts of farmers and of school districts continue to mount; and the municipal debenture debt in Alberta now totals \$155 millions, he stated, and is growing rapidly.

Alberta farmers, said the president, were handicapped by having to bear

Role of Junior FUA Discussed by President

BY choosing a theme for a year's program, a junior local could accomplish much more than by trying to work on a number of projects in the same year, declared Harold Schielke, Junior FUA President, in his message to the Convention. He suggested as themes Farmstead Planning, Farm Safety, or Soil Conservation.

The general function of the Junior section, in encouraging and educating young farm people in co-operation and good living, was discussed by Mr. Schielke, who reported on some of the activities of the organization. The Debating Competition had been very successful, and this year was being repeated, with the final debate to be held at Farm Young People's Week. It was planned to sponsor a Stampede Queen again, and to continue exchange visits to Scotland.

Juniors Fortunate

The value of such a convention as that of the FUA, with its free exchange of views and ideas, was stressed; and, said Mr. Schielke, the young people were fortunate in the opportunity to be a part of, and supporting an organization so essential to farmers and farming as the Farmers' Union of Alberta.

the whole cost of building power lines to electrify their farms. In other cases, the Province does this through a Power Commission, which operates at cost. Mr. Young said he was not blaming the power companies; "they cannot do business at cost, but a power commission can."

Mr. Young reported on activities of the organization during the past year. Organization work had not been adequate. The membership of 26,000, while a new high, was somewhat of a disappointment. Now splendid work had been done on the Round-Up; if a majority Union did not result, further work would have to be done.

Work With AFA

The FUA had worked with the AFA as closely as possible. The scale of fees to be paid to the Federation remained unsettled, and Mr. Young urged "calm and careful" thought be given to the whole situation.

Setting up of the Farmer Labor Economic Council was reported, and the various activities carried on through the Interprovincial Farm Council.

"Conserve Your Resources"

Mr. Young repeated the advice given a year ago, to "conserve your resources and take on no new debt unless absolutely necessary." He urged the necessity of standing up for the interests of agriculture, and emphasized the need for farmers today to take more interest in public affairs. He said: "Democracy will not work to the benefit of the common people unless these same people take time out to look after their common interests."

a very
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to all

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Convention Causes Tabulating Backlog — FUA Roundup Figures Soaring

By W. D. SUMMERS,
Provincial Roundup Director

Edmonton, Dec. 14th. — In tabulating returns from the province-wide Roundup, the staff at the head office of the Farmers' Union of Alberta, working hard, are just catching up with the November 30th mail, so heavy is the flood of returns. Yet last week the total of last year's membership of over 26,000 had already been surpassed, and enrollment had climbed to within seven thousand of the all-time high achieved by the United Farmers of Alberta 33 years ago.

Convention Adds to Backlog

The requirements of the big convention held here last week caused an unavoidable backlog in tabulating the Roundup returns. Returns from three hundred of the nine hundred foremen showed them averaging one hundred members each.

The board of directors in post-convention sessions endorsed the carrying on of a directors' Roundup "mop-up" program, and emphasized that there should be no let up until a clear majority of the farmers in Alberta have been enrolled.

Jubilant FUA round-up crews are considering celebrating the provincial jubilee year and the record membership sign-up conjointly, providing the objective is reached and a meeting of the directors to be held on January 27th approves.

FUA CONVENTION

(Continued from page 1)
fused to endorse a plan to send a farmers' delegation to Ottawa which fraternal delegates from other provincial unions had advocated.

Delegation Meets Government

A delegation from the convention interviewed the Alberta Government during the week, in regard to action to deal with the serious economic situation faced by many farmers owing to the bad season and unsold wheat. The delegation reported back that they had been given a good hearing, receiving assurances on certain matters, which decisions in some cases were reserved. Later Attorney General Maynard visited the convention on invitation, and informed the delegates that there would be "no wholesale evictions because of tax arrears," and that provincial laws afford full protection against seizures of farm machinery, autos and trucks.

Including delegates and directors, the total voting strength in the convention was 718, including 669 registered for the FUA (including women members of FUA locals), 113 from the FWUA, and 10 Juniors.

The convention worked hard in three daily sessions, in some cases carrying on until near midnight to consider resolutions on national and provincial policies affecting agriculture, to hear fraternal delegates and other guest speakers and to deal with plans for the further building up of the organization.

Report on Roundup

In an excellent and most encouraging report on Roundup Day, the final results of which may not be known for some weeks, W. D. Summers, the

Would "End Human Race"

"A long war between powers well-armed with bombs would certainly produce an order of radio-active contamination which would involve us all, victors as well as vanquished (and might) end the human race," — Dr. Edgar Adrian, British Nobel Prize winner in science.

provincial director, gave figures showing the remarkable success already achieved. These early figures gave promise that when the large proportion of returns still to be tabulated have been dealt with and the delayed reports have come in, a spectacular increase in the numerical strength of the union will be recorded.

It had been expected that "Resolution No. 8," to strike out from the constitution the section which set forth that the Farmers' Union of Alberta "shall remain affiliated with the AFA," might be the subject of a lengthy debate, but the decision (taken in joint session of the main and FWUA delegates) was reached within three or four minutes. The mover was very brief, and suggested that affiliation meant that interference was possible in the furtherance of Union policies.

"Let us go on in the farm movement in our most complete, united strength," urged M. W. Ward of Arrowwood, and Henry Leibicz of Lacombe spoke in similar vein.

When the proposed amendment had been tabled, Andrew Wood pointed out that any member might act on his right to move at a later session that it be taken from the table. No attempt to reopen the debate was made, however.

Fred Wolohyn of North Battleford, new president of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, paid a warm tribute to his predecessor J. L. Phelps, who continues his work in the Interprovincial Farmers' Union body. Mr. Wolohyn strongly favored the establishment of a domestic parity price for wheat and the proposed march on Ottawa, and expressed hope that a national farmers' union would grow in strength and influence. He advocated producer marketing boards.

G. L. Harrold of Lamont brought greetings from the Alberta Wheat Pool, pointing out that the objectives of both organizations are similar. The Wheat Board had maintained a fair share of the market for Canada during a difficult period, and had been of the highest service to the growers.

Hon. J. E. Brownlee, QC, UGG president, said that every farmer who stood outside the farmer organization was failing to pay his premium for insurance of a satisfactory price for wheat. He thought there was a danger in some proposals which had been put forward in regard to the car order book. There was no question of the right of the farmer to deliver to the elevator of his choice. In an emergency it was desirable that farmers should have available the utmost possible storage capacity.

W. J. Harper, vice-president of Canadian Co-operative Implements, Ltd., brought good wishes from his organization and described its function; and delegates from other farm organizations spoke during the week on occasions when unfortunately this correspondent could not be present.

Add \$22,172 to Surplus

The sum of \$22,172 was added to surplus account during the fiscal year which ended October 31st last, it was shown by financial statements presented to the delegates. The year's revenue included \$55,893 in membership fees, grants of \$1,000 from the Alberta Wheat Pool, \$2,500 from United Grain Growers Limited, and \$1,576 from municipalities.

Against Change of Date

A proposal to change the date of the annual convention from December

Tells Delegates Policy Followed Marketing Hogs

"Selling" instead of "dumping" hogs was the policy of Ontario Hog Producers' Association, declared C. W. McInnis, president, in addressing the FUA convention. In 1951, he said, the spread in hog prices between Winnipeg and Toronto was \$1.32; when the hog producers started their own selling program in 1953 this spread jumped to \$2.86, and today stands at \$2.70, he said.

Sees Drop Due to Speculators

Means must be found to deal with surplus situations, he said, and it must be on national lines. Mr. McInnis believed that the early fall drop in hog prices had been caused by the dumping of large quantities of pork on the domestic market by speculators, who had built up huge stocks in hopes of reaping big profits. It would be a long time, in his opinion, before Canadian hogs got back into the British market; the main outlet now was the U.S., which was good only for eight months of the year.

Parity prices, Mr. McInnis thought, was a doubtful solution of the hog growers' problems; a good selling program was better.

Producers Should Take Initiative

On the prospect of producers' marketing boards for Alberta, Roy C.

to January because the December date "brings our convention too close to the Christmas season, making it hard to secure delegates, especially from the women's section," was defeated by a considerable majority in spite of support given by President Henry Young and Mrs. W. C. Taylor, president of the FWUA.

When a delegate pointed out that Christmas is celebrated by members of one denomination with a large membership in the Union on January 6th, and said that they should be given consideration, several others indicated their support of this view.

The delegates recommended that federal and provincial governments "promote and assist in the establish-

(Continued on page 12)

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DOMINION SEED HOUSE
GEOGETOWN, O.N.T.

Marler, AFA president, stated that virtually no opposition had been found in 45 meetings throughout the province. If and when enabling legislation was secured, producers themselves should take the initiative towards setting up boards, he advised.

Dealing briefly with his recent visit to Ottawa, to attend the Dominion-Provincial agricultural conference, Mr. Marler declared that he had heard nothing of the reported suggestion by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, that price supports might be lowered.

From the Philippines a request has gone to Geneva for more experts on co-operation, to expand the work begun by an adviser from India.



Merry Christmas

BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR

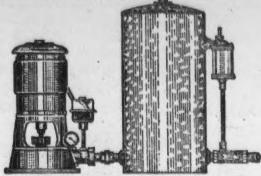
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CALGARY, ALBERTA, DECEMBER 17th, 1954.

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TWO MAJOR CONVENTIONS

The serious difficulties faced by the farmers as the result of increasing costs of production accompanied by a heavy decline in farm income, have brought increased realization of the need for strong farm organizations. The heavy losses this year due to bad weather, and the curtailment of credit, have intensified the demand for action.

That is part of the reason, no doubt, for the success achieved by the Farmers' Union of Alberta in its Roundup Day, though success could not have been achieved without able and efficient direction. It explains the record attendance of delegates, and their willingness to devote their attention from nine in the morning on occasion until near midnight to eager but tolerant debate.

The convention paid a high compliment to Henry Young by electing him, by unanimous vote, to his fifth term of office.

In tabling a resolution which could have paved the way for a break with the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, the delegates showed their desire for a united movement — in which the dirt farmers in the general membership organization and the dirt farmers who have been chosen by their own people to carry on their co-operative enterprises collaborate in the effort to reach a common goal — the raising of the status of agriculture and the achievement of a standard of living for the farm community equal to that of other classes.

The AFA annual meeting is in session as we go to press. In his thoughtful and comprehensive survey of the agricultural situation at home and abroad, President Roy C. Marler stressed the degree in which the Alberta farmer is dependent upon world forces. Through the provincial and the national Federation of Agriculture, affiliated with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, a substantial and growing influence upon events may be exercised.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

This paper has owed much (as did its predecessors **The United Farmer** and **The U.F.A.**) to a great many writers, in the farm movement and in other walks of life, who have contributed to its columns.

Officers and others connected with the several branches of the farm movement have written of its different aspects, from month to month and from year to year, as their own responsibilities and the demands of the times demanded. Their name is legion — beyond our power to enumerate.

Over an extended period until executive responsibility became too exacting (and A. M. Brownlee, LL.B. continued the service) Hon. J. E. Brownlee conducted the legal department in which without charge to our subscribers many questions by farmers were answered — the answers proving the means to large savings in legal costs. James R. McFall's AFA Notes continued to the last issue have been highly valued.

The late Bert Huffman, G. F. Lee, Sandy Fraser, James P. Watson, whose verse and prose — generally humorous — appeared in earlier days, were among individual contributors who will be remembered by our older readers. The publication of Norman F. Priestley's fine poem in blank verse, "Farmer's Fever of Hope and Fear", was a memorable event.

John Mackenzie, now editing the **Rothesay Express** in Scotland, and Norman F. Priestley reported various ses-

The Old Year and the New

The clouds hang' heavy o'er the dying year,
And far horizons glow a sullen red.
The writhing shadows of unrest and fear
Fall where the Christmas feast will soon be
spread.

Men blindly seek with clashing force of arms
The peace no force of arms shall ever win,
And all the earth resounds with dread alarms
Of mighty conflicts that may yet begin.

But all is not yet lost, and so we may
Still flaunt hope's tattered banners, as we move
Across the threshold of the New Year's Day
Which still, against the desperate odds, may
prove

The gateway to a better day to be,
When, as his birthright, every man is free.

ISA GRINDLAY JACKSON.

sions of the Alberta legislature. Dr. Alexander Calhoun, former public librarian for Calgary, and Miss Louise Riley and Miss Dorothy Rogers of the Library staff, have made distinguished contributions to many Christmas numbers.

It is, however, to those who through their writing in every issue over a long term of years have been most intimately associated with the production of the paper that we wish especially to express our thanks and appreciation at this time.

First of all, to Mrs. H. Zella Spencer, formerly of Edgerton, Alberta, and now of Comox, B.C., who commenced to write the Letter to Farm Women in **The U.F.A.** in 1926 — and has continued her feature, as a service to this paper and to the organized farm people ever since. Her farm background, her wide interests, and her pleasantly readable style, have given her letters a very general appeal.

A friend of ours who had spent his life in the making and the study of metropolitan newspapers, assessed Mrs. Spencer's letter as a feature which, whatever else might be sacrificed, should on no account be discontinued.

Isa Grindlay Jackson, who had already won recognition as a poet, began to write for our columns in 1934. Her contributions then were chiefly light verse, often about the trials of the farm wife — light verse of exceptional quality. Later she chose the sonnet form and, generally, more serious subjects. Reflecting the problems and issues of the great world, Mrs. Jackson's sonnets reveal a deep feeling for human difficulties and human suffering. It has been a great privilege to print her poems. We know readers who have taken the paper for their sake alone.

We are greatly indebted to Leonard D. Nesbitt whose perennial survey of "The Wheat Situation" (with Ed. Patching taking care of the market feature recently) has provided from issue to issue information based upon expert knowledge of much value to all grain growers.

"Mustard and Cress" has appeared regularly since early in 1933. The late Sydney May originated the blend of humor, satire and sentiment which gave his column such a distinctive flavor; it had appeared previously in various daily newspapers in Canada and abroad. He produced it, without a break, until his death last summer. His son, Lionel Sidney Cain, who had collaborated with him in recent years has — although an invalid — continued the column during the last few months, and here Volodimir Barabash's light and serious verse and philosophy have appeared. We have tried to take a sort of Gallup poll of our readers from time to time, and have concluded that an overwhelming number of them turn to this page first.

Wilfrid Eggleston, whose name as journalist, author and university teacher is now well known throughout the dominion and beyond, was our first Ottawa correspondent. When he was called upon during the war to serve as press censor, Morris McDougall became our representative in the press gallery. His intimate knowledge of the work of the Department of Agriculture has been the basis for informative letters with which our readers are familiar.

Reports to Delegates



ROY C. MARLER,
President of the Alberta Federation
of Agriculture.

AFA ANNUAL MEETING—
(From page 1)

ance must be placed on obtaining marketing legislation in Alberta before the hog producers of the other two prairie provinces could recognize their position as being most favorable to operating hog marketing boards in their respective provinces."

Mr. Marler's address, the directors' comprehensive and informative report, and the summary of the work of the year contained in the businesslike report of the secretary-treasurer, James R. McFall, provided a picture of a period of fruitful activity in many fields in behalf of the farm people of the province.

Welcomes were extended to the delegates in behalf of the provincial government and the city.

Broad International Setting

In his address, the president discussed the problems faced by the Canadian farmer, and in particular the Alberta farmer, in the broad setting of international economic and social forces, massively and objectively considered. He stressed the great advantages which Alberta farmers obtain through membership in a national federation in which our own ideas could be matched with those of farmers in other provinces.

Present Organizational Forms Inadequate

Referring to the AFA-FUA committee which has been meeting during the year to give attention to matters of interest to both organizations, Mr. Marler said: "In my opinion, we cannot reach in farm organization the desired stature, nor retain that stature under present forms of farm organizations in the province. Moreover, we will never be properly financed under present forms of farm organizations in this province; at least, for any length of time."

"There is little question in my mind that improvement can, should and will be made as and when farmers and farm women are willing to accept an organization on a basis of 'what is right,' rather than 'what we like.'

"Set Aside Jealousy and Prejudice"

"To do this we will need to set aside jealousy, prejudice — and accept a zealous constructive approach based not on force, but on greater use of our authority, used carefully to regain our lost voice in our own affairs."

"Division in, and duplication of farm organizations effectively weaken our approach, and what is more important, they are so welcomed by those opposed to our programs; those who are usually small in number, but vocally strong and effective."

Produce Most Wealth—Consume Most

"Just as a nation cannot be stronger than its people," so said Mr. Marler, "Alberta cannot be stronger than

Farm Working Force Declines Drastically as Acreages Increase

"While science and engineering have progressed and contributed greatly to better and easier farming methods, yet these achievements have had apparently little effect in retarding migration from the farms."

"In the prairie provinces during the last 30 years we have increased our cultivated farm acreage by 50 per cent. We have increased acres worked by man 100 per cent. Our workers on the farms have declined in number from a high in 1936 of approximately 400,000 to 325,000 (32 per cent). In Canada our working force on farms declined from a total of 1,178,000 in 1946 to 849,000 in 1953 (28 per cent)." —President Roy Marler at AFA annual meeting.

its agriculture," for "we produce more wealth than all others and purchase more consumer goods than all others." Respecting the rights and privileges of others, the farmers' policies involved "moral, prudent and intelligent consideration not only of farm affairs, but of society as a whole."

"To this end, we have pursued broad provincial and national programs of which all but the very extreme philosophers on each side could be federated. Thus we become known by our deeds — a stable force, a safeguard, proceeding on a constructive approach to best serve farmers' interests."

Thanks for FUA Co-operation

The AFA president expressed gratitude to directors and all officers and members of FUA locals for their co-operation and assistance in the meetings on marketing boards for farm products.

Referring to the trend of rural people, in Alberta as elsewhere in the world, to leave agriculture for other fields of endeavor, Mr. Marler said opportunities for free exchange of young people to and from the farms should be allowed and honored. Yet an unbalanced movement could give real concern. The trend was to larger acreages.

For the city-ward migration "we farmers are to some extent to blame," since, living in the midst of those who have adopted shorter hours, and effected a rigidity in industry and business, and gained for themselves a more stable economic position than farmers had gained for themselves. They had not applied the lesson.

Discussing the "three basic approaches to improvement of our agricultural economy, "farm operations, production and selling," the president said increased efficiency, reasonably good though it is, must always be a major objective.

Objectives of Plenty"

As to production, while, under favorable conditions, "we can produce more of any of the major agricultural products" on the 22 million acres brought into production in Alberta, than we can find a ready market for at remunerative prices, guidance and planning should be devoted to "objectives of plenty" which must mean a surplus, though not necessarily burdensome or unmanageable surpluses.

One method of retaining farm families on the land was to be found in the attainment of living standards which would permit of greatly improved and more attractive farm homes.

"It is within our own sphere to take advantage of modern machinery and improved techniques to plow back more of our earnings into conveniences for our homes and farmsteads, instead of over-expanding our operations in land and machinery."

Says Shifts in Pattern of Production Needed

The judgment of the representatives of the farmers of 27 nations as expressed by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) in conference, was quoted by President Roy Marler of the AFA, on Wednesday as follows:

"It should be recognized that important shifts will have to be made in the pattern of production in both exporting and importing countries. This will involve reduced production of such crops as cotton, grain and potatoes and increased production of such commodities as animal protein foods not in surplus. These are valuable both financially to the producer and nutritionally to the consumer."

"I believe too that our farms can be operated on a yearly basis by 8 hours of work per day. This would mean staggering the hours according to the type of work done, and according to the seasonal operations."

"To accomplish these shorter hours requires good farm management and efficient operation. Perhaps good farm management practices have never been so important, since farming is becoming more and more a specialized business."

Mr. Marler pointed out that the reduction of the farm income on a national basis "37 per cent from 1951," and reported falling off of net retail sales in the three prairie provinces in the most recent six-months period by \$129 millions as compared with the corresponding period of 1953, has been felt already and may be more severe in the next six or eight months. It will be felt throughout Canada."

"These remarks," declared the president, "have not been made for the purposes of alarm. Rather, I have endeavored to be factual — because facts should be beneficial, even though unfavorable."

The Canadian timothy seed crop is estimated at 17,500,000 pounds of clean seed, 14 per cent up from 1953.

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Study of Rats as Carriers of Rabies Is Strongly Urged

Study of the behavior of rats when infected by the virus of rabies is suggested by T. Childs, Veterinary Director-General, in his annual report for the year ending March 31st last, recently published by the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Introduction of rabies among these rodents could "pose a distinct peril to the human population," he writes. The report presents details of TB testing of cattle carried on throughout the Dominion, and describes outbreaks of other diseases among farm livestock during the year.

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PRAIRIE AGRICULTURE IN REVIEW

First appearing as a series of articles, but now assembled in book form, under the title "A SHORT HISTORY OF PRAIRIE AGRICULTURE", the story of agriculture in Western Canada has been faithfully portrayed by Major H. G. L. Strange, until recently Director of our Research Department. Limited supplies of this book are still available and any who are interested in it may obtain a copy by applying to the nearest Seacle Elevator Agent.

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CENTRAL ALBERTA DAIRY POOL SECTION

SLOGAN FOR TODAY: "Test and Weigh and keep the cows that pay."



Year-End Review

By ELLIS A. JOHNSTONE, General Manager

THREE are several items of interest to those of us who have a more than passing interest in the dairy, egg and poultry business. In the dairy business, there is an all time high on butter stocks of 114,000,000 pounds as of November 1. On eggs, there are 117,000 cases of eggs that are put in storage under government support that have not been sold as such, and therefore will have to be taken over by the government and either exported or otherwise moved off the market.

Poultry stocks too, are fairly high but no higher than a year ago and the same can be said for cheese, evaporated milk and skim and whole milk powders.

As was the case in some previous year-end reviews, we dealt with the subject under several headings and we are proposing to do the same this year. The headings that we are going to use are "The Cow and Hen Population," next "Production This Year," next section, "Values," and something on the "Outlook for 1955," and concluding our article with a few references on the dairy and poultry situation on the south side of the 49th parallel.

Cow and Hen Population

Curiously enough, the figures on cow population for Canada in 1954 did not increase in total over the figures for the year previous, and equally interesting is the point that our production pretty well followed the statistics on cow population.

In poultry, of course, it is a different story. There was a much larger hatch this year, and we are therefore getting more eggs and of course more poultry meat also is available.

Production

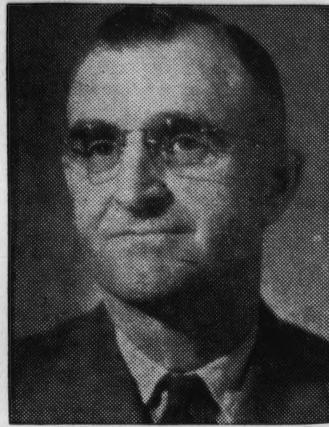
As mentioned just above, markets, namely, milk for production has pretty well fluid use, prices have been maintained the same level as lower this year by approxi-

Remaining Dates

For Buying Turkeys

Place	Date
OLDS	to Dec. 18
TROCHU (Central Meat Market)	Dec. 17
BROOKS	to Dec. 23
LETHBRIDGE	to Dec. 23

CENTRAL ALBERTA DAIRY POOL



ELLIS A. JOHNSTONE

in consultation with our government on another support plan to succeed the one that will be running out next April.

Alongside of this price support program for butter is the situation that margarine sales in Canada are increasing much faster than butter, and undoubtedly the price variation between No. 1 creamy butter in prints and margarine in the same sized packages is the principal determining factor which is stimulating the larger increase in the use of margarine.

Conditions Producers Should Ponder

This last one, as well as the former one, are conditions that all dairy producers should carefully ponder. For many times before now it has happened that a product can very easily and almost equally completely price itself out of any particular market. We therefore, contend that for the good of the dairy industry, now and henceforth, no matter what else is done, butter should not be allowed to price itself out of the proper market.

About Eggs and Poultry

Now a word about eggs and poultry—chick production was up sharply this year and prices were down accordingly. If the usual trend is followed, there won't be the increase in chick production in 1955, which might produce some strengthening of prices. Particularly so if the government support plan on eggs is continued for another year.

We think it should, but with one change, that the support price for eggs in storage which has been placed in storage under government price support, should be based on points at delivery as of either Vancouver or Eastern Canada. At the present time, the support price arrangement is equal across our country and this makes it very difficult for holders of storage eggs here on the prairies and away from large centres of consumption.

Support Price — Big Question

There is another big question mark, and that is the support price. For the last two years, our government, through one of its Boards, namely the Agricultural Price Support Board, did offer to buy creamy butter at a basis of 58 cents in Eastern Canada and 57 cents on the West Coast. That was for No. 1 butter packed in Standard 56's, salted to government requirements and packaged in accordance with government regulations.

This price support program for creamy butter expires on April 30th, 1955. Therefore, early in the new year, dairy farmers across Canada will be

South of 49th Parallel?

The government of the United States owns a very large quantity of creamy butter, and most of it at prices of around 70 to 72 cents. They are selling their surplus stocks of butter where they can, practically all in export markets and at prices which net the

(Continued on Page 3)

CENTRAL ALBERTA DAIRY POOL SECTION

United States government approximately 30 to 45 cents a pound less than the cost.

There price support arrangement in 1954 was changed from a parity to 75 per cent, but at the present time it is not certain whether the 75 per cent will be retained for 1955 or adopt something in between 75 per cent and 90 per cent.

From U.S. Department

On eggs and poultry, here is a clipping that we took out of a recent United States Department of Agriculture press report:

"Because monthly egg supply is now increasing seasonably, average prices will drift downward for several months after November. The output for each recent month has been substantially above that of the same period in the preceding year."

On poultry meats, prices for most parts of the United States are approximately 10 to 12 cents lower than corresponding

values in Canada. The result is that a large number of turkeys have been imported into Canada at the West Coast and to Eastern Canada. This of course, has a price reduction effect on our poultry meat markets and particularly turkeys.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we would like to say that when you sum it all up the problems of the dairy farmer or the poultry raiser in Canada are no more difficult than they are in many parts of the world, and this includes dairy producers and poultry raisers south of the 49th parallel.

In other parts of the world, compared to our own, of course, our problems are less. Milk for the most part is very cheap in Australia and in most parts of Europe — England excepted. This condition has just about taken away the last vestige of our export market in condensed milk products.

Canada is a world trading
(Continued on Page 13)

Consider Method of Distributing Box Cars Unfair

Pool Delegates Ask Producers Be Enabled to Choose Elevator Facilities

One of the most contentious items of business coming before the annual meeting of the Alberta Wheat Pool which completed its session earlier this month was what delegates considered to be the unfair method by which grain boxcars are distributed among elevators.

Present System

At present, cars are provided on the basis of about one car per elevator at each shipping point. This system has deprived many producers of the right to deliver to the elevator of their own choice. Coupled with the congestion in country elevators, it has resulted in a decline in handlings of the Alberta Wheat Pool last year to only 31.2 per cent of the total grain marketed in Alberta. In 1949-50 Pool elevators handled 37.4 per cent of all grain marketed in this province.

As suggested by A. R. Hadland of Baldonnel, B.C., it is more than a matter of farmers being deprived of the right to deliver to the elevator of their choice, but one of being unable to patronize their own elevators — facilities which over the years they had built and paid for.

The Resolution

Following a comprehensive study and lengthy discussion delegates passed the following resolution:

"Whereas the system of dividing available grain cars equally amongst elevators at a shipping point deprives the producer of his right to deliver his grain to the elevator of his choice; and

"Whereas the said practice results in an allocation of cars that has no relation to the volume of grain that farmers desire to deliver to each elevator and in effect results in the

owners of an elevator system being forced to use rival facilities;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alberta Wheat Pool co-operate with all other farm organizations to carry on an unceasing campaign to have this injustice corrected by the establishment of a system whereby available grain cars shall be distributed in such a manner as will enable the producer to use the facilities of his choice."

Discuss Mr. Justice Sloan's Suggestion

The delegates spent some time in discussing a suggestion made by Mr. Justice Sloan that the railways should be bonused to compensate them for losses sustained in carrying export grain under rates established by the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement. Judge Sloan made the statement while acting as arbitrator in a wage dispute between the railways and their employees.

The opinion of the convention was that it has not been proven that the railways have lost money in handling export grain. It was also felt that a strong movement was underway to have such rates abolished.

Reaffirm Crow's Nest Stand

A resolution was passed in which the Alberta Wheat Pool emphatically affirmed its stand in support of the rates established by the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement and stating that the Wheat Pool will work and co-operate with other organizations to insure their continuance. The resolution also stated that the Alberta Wheat Pool deprecates and resents unfounded suggestions and inferences that subsidies are necessary or should be paid to the railways by reason of the existence of the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement.

Was Solemn Covenant

It was further noted that the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement was a solemn covenant made between the CPR and the government of Canada under which great benefits and advantages in the way of land grants, cash payments and mineral rights accrued to the CPR. These cannot be disregarded in considering the agreement and the rates established thereunder.

The Alberta Wheat Pool delegates went on record by way of resolution as being strongly in support of the Wheat Board method of marketing and the principle of

May Have \$9760 Income But Pay No Income Tax

OTTAWA, Ont. — Under the present federal income tax legislation, an income of up to \$9,760 in net dividends from Canadian corporations after tax paid through corporations, need pay no personal income tax; the 20 per cent credit allowed on such income would amount to more than the scheduled tax (for married man with no children). A man in the same category, earning the same income, would pay \$1,657 in income tax.

the International Wheat Agreement. They urged, however, that the policies of Board marketing be extended to include flax and rye.

More Favorable Trading With UK

Another resolution passed by delegates called for a revision in Canadian tariff and currency regulations which would give more favorable trading privilege to the United Kingdom and other heavy wheat importing countries. Wheat is one of Canada's most important export commodities. It was the feeling of the meeting that if wheat exports could be stimulated not only the farming industry, but the entire economy of Canada would benefit.

A resolution introduced by Geo.

Pelletier of Pincher Creek, stated alarm over the number of young farm people shifting from rural to urban areas and called upon the governing bodies of this country to immediately implement a long-term program of farm financing, sufficiently broad to stem this movement from rural to urban areas. The resolution was carried unanimously by the Alberta Wheat Pool delegates.

Ask Accelerated Depreciation

George Fawcett of Consort moved a resolution asking the federal gov-

Ready Markets For Canadian Holsteins TOP CATTLE — TOP PRICES

At the recent Sale of Stars held at the Royal Winter Fair a bull calf sold for \$20,100. Highest individual price in the Sale of Stars Series and the second highest price in Canadian public auction history. 10 head brought at least \$2000 each.

HIGH AVERAGE

31 head averaged \$2168 to establish a new record average for the Sale of Stars. 5 other breeds averaged \$647 with the highest average being \$768 and the lowest average \$420.

WIDE MARKETS

17 head, over half the offering, were sold for export to four different countries. So for this year, over 13,000 head have been exported to 9 different countries, including 35 U.S. States.

HOLSTEINS ARE ALWAYS IN DEMAND. NOW IS THE TIME TO START WITH THIS POPULAR BREED

The Holstein-Friesian Association of Canadian Brantford, Ontario.

overnment to give farmers the right to claim accelerated depreciation on grain storage bins built on their farms. At the present time, grain handling organizations can write off the greatest part of their expenditures for new storage in a four-year period. The resolution asked for the same rights for farmers.

A grant to the Farmers' Union of Alberta for \$1,000 was authorized by the delegates.



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Banks' Loan Policy Extended

BOMBAY, India. — The Reserve Bank of India, which has for some time provided short-term loans for agricultural purposes, has now been enabled to make loans for periods of fifteen months to five years. Loans are made for reclaiming and improving land, minor irrigation works, purchase of livestock and machinery, and construction of buildings. It is expected that interest on these loans will not exceed 6½ per cent.

WORLD CHRONICLE

Dec. 2nd. — At news conference Eisenhower declared US won't take precipitate action towards war, no matter what the provocation. Britain urges China and US not to disturb present situation in Formosa area. US Senate censures McCarthy on two counts, takes no action on charges of abuse of General Zwicker. France delays ratification London agreement.

Dec. 3rd. — Mendes-France wins vote of confidence, after charges of being "soft" towards Communism. US government's anti-trust civil suit against DuPont, General Motors, and US Rubber dismissed. On Washington report that US army engineers will be asked to examine plans for Columbia river flood control in Canada, Ottawa states such plans now being studied by international joint commission.



DR. FISHER,
Archbishop of
Canterbury.



SEASON'S GREETINGS TO THE FARM PEOPLE OF THE EDMONTON DISTRICT

It is a pleasure for me to extend sincere wishes for a very Merry Christmas to all our fellow citizens on behalf of the members of the City Council, City Commissioners and Superintendents of Civic Departments.

May one and all enjoy the blessings of this happy season and may the New Year bring good health and prosperity.

Yours sincerely,

MAYOR

THE CITY OF EDMONTON



**Season's
Greetings**

With BEST WISHES for the coming year.

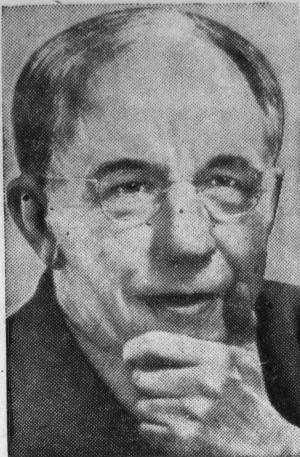
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Great Editor Passes



In intellectual distinction, historical and economic learning and grace of literary style outstanding among Canadian writers, Bernard Keble Sandwell (above) of Toronto, passed away early this month, aged 79. During his 18-years editorship of **Saturday Night** Mr. Sandwell, native of England, established himself as one of Canada's most influential journalists. He was one of the founders of the Canadian Authors' Association, and its first secretary. In June, 1953, he was elected its president.

Dec. 4th. — Eisenhower praises Watkins for job done as chairman of McCarthy censure committee of US Senate. UN Assembly unanimously approves atoms-for-peace program. Strydom states South Africa will become republic.

Dec. 5th. — West Berlin elections give Socialists lead over Adenauer group. Italian government moves to keep Communists out of administrative posts.

Dec. 6th. — UN committee agrees general assembly will consider US protest against imprisonment of Americans as spies, by China; Eden accuses Chinese of violation of Korean armistice.

Dec. 7th. — Yoshida resigns as premier of Japan. Mendes-France seeks confidential talks with Russia on Austrian peace treaty. McCarthy attacks Eisenhower.

Dec. 8th. — Tunisian outlaw leaders accept Mendes-France's offer of amnesty. Global war is less likely now than it was four years ago, declares Eisenhower. UN assembly opens debate on US spy charges. At UN, Canada is among countries voting down motion regretting South Africa's refusal to co-operate with commission on racial segregation.

Dec. 9th. — London dispatch suggests Attlee may approach Mao Tse-tung on behalf of imprisoned US airmen. Russia asks UN to condemn US for "aggressive acts towards China." Paris reports Britain has signified agreement in principle on six-nation coal and steel community. Dublin suffers worst flood in city's history.

Dec. 10th. — Speaking at Moscow rally, Molotov declares no force in the world can stop march of Communism. Archbishop of Canterbury advocates stiffer divorce laws.

Dec. 11th. — Hammarskjold reported seeking direct talks with China on imprisoned American airmen. Dehebar replaces Nehru as president India's National Congress party. New Japanese premier, Shigemitsu, says collaboration with US and other western powers will have priority over trade with Russia and China.

Dec. 12th. — Premier U Nu of Burma leaves Peiping, after concluding agreement with China for closer trade and diplomatic relations.

Dec. 13th. — Pipe line from Peace River country through BC to USA to be built, announced in Vancouver. Parliament will be asked to increase Colombo Plan contribution by \$1 million, to \$26,400,000, stated in Ottawa.

A.F.A. NOTES

By JAS. R. McFALL

Meetings in New Year

In the new year three farm meetings will be held in Edmonton. They include the Western Agricultural Conference on January 21st and 22nd, semi-annual meeting of the National Farm Radio Forum board on January 22nd and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture from January 24th to 28th.

Dominion Provincial Agricultural Conference: Roy C. Marler, president of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, has just returned from Ottawa where he attended a Canadian Federation of Agriculture board meeting and the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference.

This is an annual conference of Federal and Provincial agricultural officials and representatives of the farm organizations.

Farm Forum News: On Monday, November 29th, farm forum groups in the areas adjacent to Lacombe and Red Deer held a very interesting rally at Lakeside Hall, southeast of Lacombe.

The Central Alberta forum committee was in charge of arrangements and conduct of this rally. They are to be commended for putting on a very nice program.

Alex Sim from Ottawa was guest speaker. Mr. Sim was the first national secretary of FRF and one of the originators of this program, so he had an interesting story to tell. Mr. Sim is presently with the citizenship branch of the department of immigration.

The annual farm forum banquet was held on Monday night, December 6th, at the Mandarin Gardens in Edmonton. Sixty three members and visitors were in attendance. The national topic for discussion for this evening was a national health plan and so it was arranged to have the members of the FWUA Health Committee reports on their studies. These ladies, Mrs. Alberts, from Brooks, Mrs. Johnson, from Cereal and Mrs. Harrold, from Edmonton presented very interesting reports and are to be commended for their efforts.

Farm Forum is away to a good start with well over forty groups organized, of which eight are new groups. This looks like a banner year for forums in Alberta.

UN assembly begins debates on demands for independence from Morocco and Cyprus, also complaints against French administration in Tunisia; later, British move for postponement Cyprus debate expected.

Dec. 14th. — Washington won't make deal to trade 35 Chinese students in USA for imprisoned American airmen, announced. Pope's condition described as "stationary." Trinidad legislature accepts plan for British West Indies federation.

Dec. 15th. — Dulles goes to Paris to confer with Mendes-France prior to NATO meeting.

BRITISH CATTLE TO GO TO REGINA

About 30 of the best British pedigree Hereford cattle will be exhibited at the international show and sale to be held in Regina in July next, as part of Saskatchewan's centenary celebrations.

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CONFERENCE PROVES USEFUL FORUM FOR FRANK DISCUSSIONS

Ottawa Gathering on Agricultural Problems Considers Many Subjects

By M. McDougall, Press Gallery Leader Correspondent

OTTAWA, Dec. 15th. — The federal-provincial agricultural conference held earlier this month in the central block of the parliamentary buildings here lived up to its established reputation as a valuable forum for direct speech and for diligent searching for the best policy to obtain the maximum of well being of the farming community.

No Difference in Aims

There was of course no difference in the aims of the conference on the part of any delegate. There was also no difference of opinion on the need of maintaining the price support policy, and Agriculture Minister J. G. Gardiner stated he believed that if it should become necessary to extend price supports to other products than those now receiving this support, it would be done. His support would be given in the cabinet, "but if I don't get every cent I'll not resign. I'll say I should be there to tell the story as you would tell it," he said.

Thinks Provinces Should Act

The federal minister voiced an idea that may possibly get a considerable amount of attention in the future. It is based on the conviction that there is an inclination on the part of provinces to ask the dominion to do too much. The provinces, he thought, should start agricultural programs of their own. They could be confident in taking this course that they would obtain the co-operation of the government at Ottawa.

It is not possible in short space available to give anything like a comprehensive account of even the main features of the papers read and discussions that followed. It is perfectly natural that, with the disastrous field harvests of the year immediately in mind, and the difficulties arising from them, some of the proposals advanced may have seemed overweighted, and did not seem to have a balance that would have given them greater force.

This does not apply, for example, to the address of the president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Mr. Hannam, which enumerated and took into account the checks and balances, such as the agricultural prices support board, and the ability to market western grain crops in an orderly fashion in the face of very large grain supplies which have given stability to the farming industry.

Some Suggestions

Whether or not Mr. Hannam's suggestion that there should be some national agency "with broad and flexible powers" to assist farmers with

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Garbage Becomes Valuable Fertilizer

SYDNEY, Australia — The town of Canterbury operates a plant which turns garbage to fertilizer, which it sells at \$35 a ton.

emergency credit when such natural enemies as rust, frost, floods and hurricanes take disastrous toll of crops, is feasible or desirable, in addition to the credit facilities now available, is something to be discussed. So too is the suggestion of an international agreement on disposal of surpluses, along lines of one being considered on dried skim milk.

In his summing up of the proposals advanced at the conference, the minister of agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, under the head of agricultural credits referred to the Farm Loan Act under which farmers may obtain long time loans as well as short term loans for farm improvement. There are also loans for the purchase of farm equipment. (These remarks were in answer to the memorandum of Mr. Phelps, of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council). Crop insurance, that was suggested, would be a matter for the provinces as insurance in general comes under their jurisdiction. Hail insurance was provided by some provinces as well as car and fire insurance. The federal government under a plan of crop assistance will be paying out about \$25 million on rusted crops.

"Year of Calamities"

"This has been a year of calamities," the minister said, and from five to seven hundred thousand dollars will be paid out on account of the damaged caused by a hurricane to Nova Scotia apple crop. Over five million dollars are being paid out to P.E.I. and New Brunswick farmers on potatoes.

Almost All Favor Supports

Practically all attending the conference were in favor of the price supports on hogs, butter and eggs and also of the guarantee of initial payments under the agricultural products co-operative marketing act, the minister said. In relation to marketing boards, the B.C. and Ontario governments have shown they are well aware that these boards are properly operated under provincial authority. Most farm products other than wheat are largely consumed in the provinces where they are produced. Other provinces can utilize the plan more readily than the federal government on everything but wheat.

A suggestion made at the conference that "the provisions of the agricultural prices support act be extended to include cereal grains," was answered by Mr. Gardiner, and it may be expected that this suggestion will not appear as regularly as it has in the past. The minister said that the Saskatchewan minister of agriculture had already drawn the attention of the conference to the fact that the wheat board act "provides a system of marketing which is in every way acceptable to prairie grain growers, but that in addition it establishes a most satisfactory floor prices under grains. The only reason wheat was not included under the Prices Support Act is that it was more satisfactorily dealt with under the wheat board act".

There had been the recommendation that the federal government immediately adopt as part of a new national agricultural policy the principle of a basic price formula for products sold on the domestic market (such prices to be based upon and adjusted from time to time to bear a favorable relationship to the costs of goods and services required by farmers). It is not new, the conference was told. It has been in existence since 1944 under a section of the Agricultural Prices Support Act. It applied to cattle during foot and mouth disease, said Mr. Gardiner, but does not apply to cattle now. If it

F.W.U.A. DELEGATES ENDORSE DIVORCE LAW REFORM PLAN

By MARJORIE K. STILES

EDMONTON, Alta. — The FWUA have for some time been agitating for revision of Canada's divorce laws, and at the annual convention here two resolutions were passed. One of these, which is identical in purport with the resolution passed recently by the Canadian Bar Association (excepting for the addition of (d) — the final clause) reads as follows:

were decided to raise the price of cattle in Canada; it was added, there would be a deluge of cattle imports from the United States within 24 hours.

"Whereas the law in Alberta and other western provinces is almost 100 years old, being the Divorce Act passed in 1857, and

"Whereas this Act was materially amended in England in 1937 by the so-called 'Herbert Act' which added to the existing grounds, and

"Whereas the parliament of Canada is the only legislature which can alter the grounds for divorce in Canada, and

"Whereas the inability of a deserted spouse to obtain a divorce on the grounds available is causing great hardship to many thousands of men and women, and

"Whereas a resolution in the terms of this resolution was adopted by the Canadian Bar Association at its annual convention in Winnipeg in September, 1954, and

"Whereas the social and economic conditions and the laws governing the rights of husband and wife which

(Continued on page 13)



Another year is nearly gone. The New Year is almost upon us.



Let us, who are within the farm movement, go into the future with a firm determination to meet whatever lies before us in harmony and unity.



Within ourselves lies the future. Working together, our united efforts will result in further progress.



C. P. Hayes

President

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

FARM WOMEN'S INTERESTS

Including News of The Farm Women's Union of Alberta

Beauty in Many of its Manifestations

Comox, B.C.

Dear Farm Women:

You are now, I suppose, in the midst of Christmas and New Year festivities, with houses and schools and streets gayly decorated for the occasion. As I said before, may it be a happy present and a pleasing memory.

There are times when we realize that in the lives of all there is a love for the beautiful. Naturally our conceptions of what is pleasing differ, but we see it, with some emphasizing one thing, some another. With some women the greatest thought is given to personal appearance and how that may be enhanced. Some of the others

of us may rather belittle that, yet we well know it gives pleasure to us and to others as well to see the results so often — not always produced. With some people to give beauty to their homes may be a dominant position.

An Enjoyable Evening

The other evening I spent a most enjoyable time with a friend who has a very large collection of West Coast Indian baskets, paddles, boxes, etc. The handicraft of some was beautiful in itself, and when combined with the numerous pleasing patterns was most attractive. When we realize that these were often produced in crowded, often smoky places which served for home at the time, it is the more to be wondered at that the concept of beauty was so much in evidence. One might think the idea that any old thing would do would be uppermost.

A further evidence of that characteristic I saw in a booklet issued by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources at Ottawa called **Canadian Eskimo Art**. These people live in a country with no wood, but some drift wood, with no textiles, no vegetable dyes, and they have a very limited number of tools, so their scope is naturally limited. As, too, they are a people so often on the move in search of food, they could not be cumbered with large ornaments if they had them. Theirs are small, and very often made of stone and carried in their furs; so they are very frequently rather smooth in outline. Still the desire for beauty is there.

An Entertaining Lecture

A further evidence of that love of decoration and of the beautiful (and fortunately where it is more possible to be accomplished) was shown by Mr. Hansen, a lecturer of the Canadian Club, the other evening. Possibly some of you may have heard him or seen evidence of his work. He has been the decorator for the B&A. After his lecture he gave pictures showing what was done in their building in Toronto and in Vancouver. Mr. Hansen very much emphasized the need and the pleasure of developing from what a locality offers. He commented that when he came to this country and began looking around for souvenirs, it was frequently impossible to get them; and if they were to be obtained, on looking on the under side one read "Made in Japan," "Made in Britain" or some other place.

Beautiful Formal Designs

The lecturer's pictures showed formal designs developed from familiar surroundings. He further emphasized the great asset it was to develop any skill we might have. Many have a capacity for a special skill at an early age and do not realize it. In the later years of life there is this discovery of a latent skill for an interest and a form of expression.

I wish you could have seen the beautiful quilt patterns (at one time there was a feeling they were old-fashioned) and a hanging which had been hooked by some Cape Breton woman. It is indeed worth while to develop the expression of handicraft and beauty in some form.

Yours sincerely,
H. ZELLA SPENCER.

Christmas Day Broadcasts

The theme of the British Commonwealth broadcasts on Christmas Day will be "Good Neighbors." The Queen will again speak from her home at Sandringham.

President Reports to FWUA Convention on Year's Activities

SOME important parts of the program advocated by the Farm Women's Union of Alberta in past years are now being put into practise, it was shown in the annual address of Mrs. W. C. Taylor, FWUA president, to the FWA convention in Edmonton last week.

Three briefs had been presented to the Provincial Government during the past year. The first, on Education, asked for increased educational grants to the municipalities, for more stress on fundamentals, and endorsed the six weeks' training course for teachers.

Grants for Homes for Aged

The second covered resolutions passed by last year's convention. "We were told," states Mrs. Taylor, "that provision has been made for grants to municipalities for building homes for the aged. We have been asking for this for the last eleven years, so we are glad to hear that some action had been taken."

Mrs. Taylor suggested, however, that the grants might have to be greatly increased before municipalities would be able to make use of them.

Action on Other Matters

"We learned that all but one district in Alberta now have Rural Health Units," she continued; "that a library supervisor had been appointed; that a school for the deaf was being built, and that the Government was making every effort to see that stop signs were being erected at all points where roads entered highways. These were all matters which we had been asking action for several years."

Suggested amendments to the Intestates Succession Act had been studied by the Government. The FWUA felt, said Mrs. Taylor, that grown-up children had usually been helped to a start in life and that in the case of intestates the total estate should go to the widow and minor children.

Dangers in Censorship

The third brief presented by the FWUA was on "Crime Comics". While recognizing the menace to children presented by these publications, the organization was not convinced that Provincial censorship was the remedy; there was felt to be danger of a gradual extension of any censorship.

Mrs. Taylor reported on her work during the year in attending district conventions and other meetings, and her attendance, as delegate to such bodies as the Interprovincial Council, the AFA Board, the Farm Union Conference, the Western Agricultural Conference. She had also been representative of the FUA at the Montana Farmers' Union convention.

Particularly Appropriate

With reference to the fund for a Farmers' Union Headquarters building Mrs. Taylor suggested that it would be particularly appropriate if the building could be erected in 1955 — just fifty years after the first farm organizations, the Society of Equity and the Alberta Farmers' Association, were started in Alberta."

Farmers, stated the FWUA president, "are being caught between decreasing prices and increasing costs." She hoped that the Fall Round-Up in the three prairie provinces would result in a membership so large "that the Federal Government will at least realize that while farmers are not asking for subsidies or handouts we do want justice and a fair share of the national income. We want our government to take definite steps to prevent economic disaster to the farmer and through him to the whole economy."



MRS. W. C. TAYLOR

Arrowwood, Eclipse, Sydenham Are Handicraft Winners

A very lovely and novel display of handicrafts was on display at the FWUA convention, which included knitting, embroidery, quilts, novelties, house dresses, paintings, and even dolls' clothes. These articles were judged by Mrs. E. McCrimmon, district home economist, on the group system, that is when several articles in the same class were worthy of first prize, they received first prize, and when as in the case of pot holders, which were considered too elaborate for their use, they received only third prize.

Winners in Handicrafts

Winners of the handicrafts were Arrowwood, Eclipse and Sydenham locals. Sixty articles were donated by the locals, and these were raffled off to help defray the expenses and were drawn for one evening when the convention was in joint session with the men. Mrs. M. Keast, director district 8, and Miss Molly Coupland of Lethbridge, were in charge of the handicrafts. — M.K.S.

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Better Health, Educational and Cultural Standards Aim of Alberta Farm Women

By MARJORIE K. STYLES

ONE hundred and fifty accredited delegates with many more visiting members of the Farm Women's Union of Alberta met in Alberta College, Edmonton, recently for their annual convention. The theme of the convention covered ways of providing a better standard of living for farm people through improved facilities for health, education and cultural activities. Understanding our world neighbors has been one of the special projects of the FWUA during the past two years, and at this convention this theme was carried out by special displays from Holland, and Pakistan.

Dutch Films and Dutch Costumes

Through the courtesy of the Dutch Embassy at Ottawa, films of Holland were shown and a display of handicrafts in charge of Mrs. Winters, Penhold, were much enjoyed.

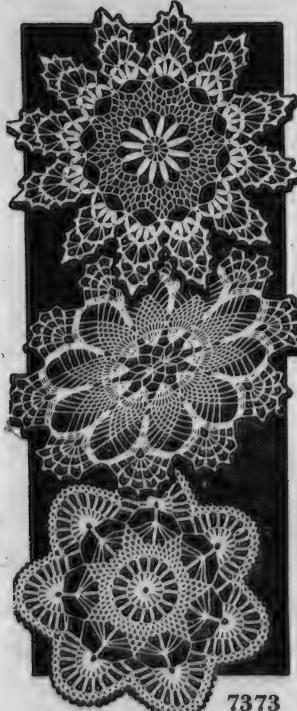
The daily program was opened with morning thoughts given by the Rev. John C. Verbrugge, of the Christian Reformed Church, who is working with newcomers from Holland. He based his talks on the Book of Proverbs, the last chapter, from which his text was taken, "A virtuous woman—her price is above rubies."

The Dutch motif was continued at the afternoon tea, provided through the courtesy of the United Grain Growers, when Dutch costumes were modelled by Mrs. Winters and Mrs. Stevenet and a Dutch dance was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Van Haren, who have a Dutch specialty shop in Edmonton.

Display from Pakistan

The world neighbors motif was continued with a wonderful display sent to Mrs. Taylor from Pakistan by Begum Hussain Malik of Karachi. During the year a number of locals had

The Western Farm Leader PATTERN DEPARTMENT



7373

Variations of a star design are these three crocheted doilies — so nice for pick-up work on the winter evenings. Price of pattern 7373, 25 cents.

Mrs. Armstrong President — Executive Officers

On Thursday the following ladies were elected to the FWUA executive: President, Mrs. Clarence Armstrong, who has been a member of the Hussar local since 1941 and has filled many executive positions in the organization including that of first vice-president. First vice-president, Mrs. Olive Douglas, Vulcan, has been a member of the farm organizations since joining the Junior Berrywater local in 1919. She has previously been a provincial director for four years. Mrs. D. Mathison of Dewberry was elected second vice-president. A former school teacher, Mrs. Mathison has three teen-aged children, and has been on the FWUA Board of Directors for three years.

Work of FAO Described

Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite of Red Deer introduced Mrs. Florence Reynolds who is in charge of important FAO activities in North America. Mrs. Reynolds explained that Canada's contribution to United Nations Services, besides being humanitarian, was also good business. Improving conditions of the poor farmers in the Eastern hemisphere would put money into their hands with which to purchase Canadian goods, since Canadian dollars ultimately can only be used to buy Canadian goods.

A quartet from the Bremner Juniors entertained at this time with two

Has Many Home Uses

Polythene plastic, used to package fruit and vegetables and other groceries, is also finding many uses in the home — to cover schoolbooks, to make garment and laundry bags, shower curtains, etc. In making these articles from the polythene purchased by the yard, it isn't necessary to sew the seams; they can be very quickly "welded." You simply place the two pieces of plastic to be joined in position, with a strip of brown paper folded so as to cover the plastic above and below; then run a warm — not hot — iron slowly over it.

numbers, Kentucky Babe and Newquay Fisherman's Song. They were Alex and Marion McCall and Alfred and Joyce McGhan. Mrs. Sturrock and Mrs. Barbara Smith entertained with southern Christmas carols.

Humanitarian Societies

In the more serious side, Dr. Conrad Geggie, provincial president of the John Howard Society, explained that this organization is for the rehabilitation of offenders who have broken the law. Case workers visit the Fort Saskatchewan, Lethbridge, and Prince Alberta penitentiaries and the Bowden Institute, where confidential interviews take place with inmates desiring this counsel. They begin work

(Continued on Page 15)

"WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?"



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Veterinary Questions and Answers

By DR. S. H. McCLELLAND

SALT IN POULTRY RATION

Mrs. C. D., St. Paul — How much salt would you advise adding to a poultry ration?

Ans. — Poultry ration should contain from one-half to one per cent of common salt.

BREEDING HEIFER

A.M.B., Leedale — Would you please inform me through the columns of your paper at what age should a heifer of dairy type be bred for the first time.

Ans. — Not before 2 years old.

WARTS ON TEATS

A. McD., Magrath: One of my cows has several small warts on the teats. What would you advise to remove them?

Ans. — Small warts may be removed by snipping them at level of the skin, and painting the wounds with wart oil.

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The Wheat Situation

By E. PATCHING,
Publicity Department,
Alberta Wheat Pool

World wheat trade in 1954-55 is expected by the United States department of agriculture to be somewhat larger than in 1953-54. The 1954 European wheat crop was of poor quality and larger than usual quantities will likely be used as feed, thus increasing import requirements for milling purposes.

In 1953-54 world exports were estimated by the U.S. department of agriculture at about 834 million bushels, about 16 per cent less than in the previous year and 22 per cent below the record of 1,066 million bushels in 1951-52.

Supplies Available

Supplies of wheat available for export or carryover in the United States, Canada, Argentine and Australia—the four major exporting countries—were established on October 1st at around 2,006 million bushels, slightly larger than the 1,982 million bushels on hand a year ago. Location of these supplies with comparative figures for a year ago are as follows:

Country:	Oct./54	Oct./53
Canada	684.4	795.6
United States	1,150.5	1,046.4
Australia	110.0	52.6
Argentine	61.1	82.7

Exports Slightly Behind

So far this year Canadian exports of wheat are trailing slightly behind those of a year ago. Up to December 1st Canada had shipped 97.7 million bushels, 6.4 million less than in the same four months last year. One factor contributing to the decline was the long tie-up of British ports caused by the strike of dock workers. An increased demand for high quality Canadian wheat from the 1953 crop is looked for in the winter months.

Here in Western Canada about 27 per cent of all grain estimated to be available for delivery in the present crop year had been marketed by December 1st, 178.7 million bushels out of a total of 671.5 million. Only 17 per cent of available wheat had been marketed, but farmers have delivered 42 per cent of all available oats and 43 per cent of the barley.

Manitoba farmers had made up 39 per cent of their grain deliveries, Saskatchewan farmers 25 per cent and Alberta farmers 24 per cent.

Will Hold Seed Oats

Premier Manning told a delegation from the FUA convention last week that all commercial seed oats will be required by the government to meet the needs of farmers who suffered crop failures. Elevators were being asked to hold space. The seed will be turned over to needy farmers at "very reasonable cost."

To a request for guarantee of bank loans to farmers hit by crop failures and restricted markets, the premier replied that it was too early to make a commitment. "If necessary action would be taken through M.D.'s."

If the worst comes and municipalities can't meet school requisitions the province will step in.

On foregoing of rural electrification payments the government was not willing to make a blanket policy.

Regarding a request for cancelling the rule which makes hail insurance premiums first charges on crop, conference with the H.I. Board was advised.

The delegation was told that municipal tax collections in general are fairly close to normal.

There was no danger of evictions, the premier believed, and farmers had adequate protection against seizure of equipment if they tried to pay off debts.

Livestock Markets Review

CALGARY STOCKYARDS, Dec. 15th.—Hogs closed yesterday \$25.50 for Grade A, sows \$14 to \$14.25 live-weight; good lambs \$17 to \$17.75. Good to choice butcher steers were \$18 to \$20.50, down to \$14 for common; good to choice butcher heifers \$15.50 to \$17.50, down to \$10 for common; good cows \$8.75 to \$9.50, down to \$7.50; good stocker and feeder steers \$15 to \$16.50, down to \$10.

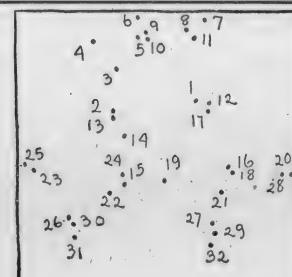
THE DAIRY MARKET

Locally, prices to producers remain at 63 for special cream and 61 for No. 1, 44 for No. 2 and 39 for off-grade. Prints, wholesale, are 64.

EGG AND POULTRY MARKET

CALGARY. — Egg prices to producers are: A large 30, Medium 28, Small 22, B's are 22 and C's 18. Dressed chicken, to producers, all weights, are 30 for A grade, 22 for B and 15 for C. Dressed fowl, under 4 lbs., are 16 down to 8; 4 to 5 lbs., 18 down to 9; over 5 lbs., 20 down to 10. Dressed turkeys, under 18, to producers, are 32 to 36 for A grade, 27 for B and 16 for C; over 18 lbs., 27 down to 18.

Little Folks' Puzzle



Lucy has been Christmas shopping and has bought something for her brother. If you would like to see what it is, join all the numbered dots together, starting with dot number one and ending with dot number thirty-two. Try your paints and crayons on this picture.

FUA — (From page 3).

ment of artificial insemination centers."

The Alberta government was urged to "reconsider their past decision . . . and to enact such legislation as is required to permit the operation" of producer marketing boards. All members and local officials were requested to contact their "local MLA's, and the Minister of Agriculture to impress upon them the importance which farmers attach to this question."

The publishers of The Western Farm Leader wish to express their thanks to the management and staff of the Albertan Job Press, Ltd., for their courtesy combined with efficiency and regard for their client's interests which have greatly facilitated production throughout the years.

Britain's Latest Carrier



Seen above is the debut of the HMS Bulwark, the latest aircraft carrier to join the Royal Navy. The Bulwark incorporated all the latest developments in carrier-operating technique, including the angled deck, which can be seen in the photo. To be under the command of Captain J. M. Villiers, the Bulwark, third ship of the Hermes class, has the most modern radar and gun directing systems. Her sister ships came into the service earlier this year.

Some FUA Convention Decisions

The delegates opposed "any upward revision of the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement."

They rejected a motion which would have removed the five-year limitation on the president's term of office.

A call for enabling legislation to permit the operation of producers' marketing boards, sponsored by no fewer than seven district conventions and two locals, was carried.

Complimenting the Wheat Board on their work, the convention in the same resolution expressed the hope that it would continue to function for many years to come. Another resolution called for provision for growers to indicate the elevator of their choice in registering for grain cars. The Federal government was asked to make advances from the national treasury on grain stored on farms; and larger quotas were sought for those farmers who had in the previous crop year had crop failures.

On the subject of meat grading, a resolution was passed asking that meat from lower-priced animals be sold to the consumer as a lower grade, at a lower price. Other resolutions called for the FUA to sponsor a farm safety project, and to work out a plan for a production tax to replace the present income tax; it was agreed to continue to press for a Great Plains Water Authority, and to ask for legislation which would make oil companies responsible for taxes on rented lands.

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Fear May Lead South Africa to Catastrophe



Committed to bringing about complete segregation of black from white South Africans, the new prime minister, J. G. Strydom (above) has also declared that under his leadership the country will not only become a republic but will break all ties with the Commonwealth. (India is a republic, but a part of the Commonwealth).

It is feared that Malan's more extreme successor may plunge South Africa into civil strife, as the English speaking minority is strongly opposed to the constitutional change he proposes, and the natives are enraged by the threat of new segregation measures.

DIVORCE LAW REFORM

(Continued from page 9)
existed in Canada in 1857 are vastly different from those existing in this century today;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that Parliament grant to the courts in such provinces and territories as desire it, power to dissolve marriages upon the following grounds adopted in England in 1937: (a) Desertion without cause for at least three years. (b) Cruelty. (c) Incurable insanity which has required care and treatment for five years; and (d) Presumption of death of the other spouse."

The delegates also adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas Quebec and Newfoundland divorces take up too much time of the dominion government, therefore be it resolved that some other competent body be set up to handle divorces for Quebec and Newfoundland."

Another topic which was listened to with keen interest was that of Health Insurance. Mrs. S. Albert, of Brooks, described the Regional Health scheme which has been in operation for some years in the Swift Current district. Fifty-five thousand people contribute to the scheme by a tax levy of 2.2 mills and a direct contribution which costs about \$40.00 for a family of four and includes medical, dental, hospitalization, radiological attention.

Again Urge National Health Plan

The FWUA reaffirmed their policy working for a Dominion Health scheme and dealt with other resolutions of national and provincial importance.

Mrs. Armstrong presented a brief on Crime Comics, and suggested regional libraries would help turn young people away from this sordid reading.

New Surplus Production Problem?

"It now appears that an ordinary atomic bomb of Uranium 235 or plutonium can fairly easily and cheaply be up-graded into an H-bomb with up to a thousand times or so the explosive power. Thus we may be entering a period when H-bombs are relatively cheap and plentiful—on both sides." — P. S. M. Blackett, British scientist whose research contributed to the development of the atomic bomb.

World Meteorological Organization Told to Investigate H-Bombs

Experts Sceptical — Radio-Active Particles Give Prima-facie Case for Inquiry

(New Statesman and Nation)

The millions of people throughout the world who insist that there is something more than a coincidence between freakish weather and the H-bomb explosions are to have their suspicions investigated by the UN. Its specialized agency, the World Meteorological Organization, has instructed the secretariat to make a study and to call for relevant information from all member States, including the US and the USSR.

Remarkable Concession

This is a remarkable concession to modern folklore by an organization of weather-experts who have consistently pooh-poohed the suggestion that the bomb explosions have somehow triggered-off atmospheric repercussions on a world scale. True, they have been prepared to concede that an H-bomb explosion, equivalent to millions of tons of TNT, creates its own local weather, since its heat causes powerful upward currents as well as vaporizing sea water. Most meteorologists would, however, contend that even explosions of the size already made could not seriously disturb the weather-system generally. There is a great mass of atmosphere around the earth, and it is held that a man-made explosion would be no more than pushing a thumb in a mattress.

Other Factors Than Explosion

But there are factors other than explosive disturbances and of heat, and it has been argued that the scattering of radio-active particles in the upper-atmosphere could provide the nuclei for rain-formation and might even interfere with absorption of solar rays and the mechanism of weather generally. At the moment there is not enough evidence, consistently and scientifically acquired, to convince the weather-men, but they have admitted the prima-facie case for an inquiry.

FARM HOME & GARDEN

Molded Mincemeat Pudding: Soften 1 envelope plain gelatine in 1/4 cup cold water; stir 1/8 tsp. cream of tartar into 1/2 cup molasses, add 1/8 tsp. cinnamon, 1/2 tsp. salt, and the beaten yolks of 3 eggs. Cook over hot water until slightly thickened; add gelatine, and chill. Fold in whites of 3 eggs, stiffly beaten with 3 tbs. sugar, and 1 cup mincemeat. Chill until firm.

Cranberry-Apple Crunch: Place 4 cups sliced apples in baking dish, and pour over 1 can whole cranberry sauce. Combine 1 cup rolled oats, 1/2 cup flour, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1/2 cup brown sugar, and cut in 1/2 cup butter; spread over fruit mixture and bake in moderate oven, about 40 minutes.

Herb Butter: Cream 1 lb. softened butter, and add 1 tsp. mixed herbs (basil, savory, bay leaf, thyme, marjoram), the juice of a lemon and 1 tsp. sugar; add 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley. Store in frig. Does wonders for sandwiches, or for buttered bread to eat with salads.

Lean Beef: Is excellent food for the overweight person, providing as it does protein along with some minerals and Vitamin B. Beef fat is high in calories, and beneficial for those desiring to add weight.

Caraway Cheese Bread: Combine 1 cup grated cheddar cheese with 2 tbsps. caraway seed, 3 tbs. salad dressing, and 1/4 cup soft butter. Spread liberally on slices of bread, and heat in hot oven.

Season's Greetings

The delegates, directors and management of the Alberta Wheat Pool desire to express to Pool members and patrons of Alberta Pool Elevators their sincere appreciation for their substantial support during the past year.

The Alberta Wheat Pool is growing in importance and influence with each passing year, thanks to the trust reposed in this farmer-cooperative by so many grain producers.

As Christmastide approaches and the year 1954 comes to a close, best wishes are extended for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alberta Wheat Pool

CENTRAL ALBERTA DAIRY POOL SECTION
(Continued from page 7)

Writing on the Wall For All to Read

THE thought that is uppermost in dairymen's minds is how long can our industry continue to stockpile our products, especially butter. The answer is simple: "not much longer."

There is no doubt about it, Canada's dairy industry is facing a serious crisis and something has to be done about it and very soon now.

Favorable weather and a growing good bulls and raising their own realization that the dairy cow is an heiress. These are only a few things that will lower the cost of producing milk and cream.

We would suggest that more dairymen examine their operations and by adopting these accepted methods of modern dairying, if they have not already done so, put themselves in a position to receive a lower initial price for their products without lowering to any appreciable extent their net return.

Time to Take Stock

It looks as though it has succeeded in the first part at the expense of the second. Cream producers would do well to take a little time out to take stock and find out whether they are in a position to stay in business with lower prices almost a certainty. You will note that we did not say lower returns but lower prices.

The two are not the same. It is a proven fact that cream and milk can be produced at a lower cost on some farms than on others, and which ever way it is decided to increase consumption of butter every segment of the industry will have to play its part.

Lowering Production Costs

The primary producer will be faced with the problem of trying to lower costs of production. Many have already done so, by only milking good producing cows and culling out the "boarders", by improving their hay lands and pastures, by only using

YEAR END REVIEW—From page 7
nation and therefore, values of all agricultural products in other sections of the world should be carefully studied and our programs, if any, should be so set that there will be not too great a variance between our own and those of other countries who might and generally speaking, are competing to a degree in the same markets.

The economic index for Canada is likely going to stay strong for 1955, but undoubtedly, there are going to be spots of weakness showing, and some of them will reveal themselves in the prices and the market trend of products of agriculture.

Look Into New Varieties of Grain, Is Advice

Old, outdated sorts of cereals still occupy a fairly large percentage of the crop area of the prairie provinces, writes H. J. Mather, in a recent bulletin of Line Elevators Farm Service. Many new high yielding, disease-resistant varieties of the small grain crops have been developed in the past few years, and Mr. Mather urges that the advice of district agriculturists should be sought in selecting varieties best suited to various districts.

FARM COSTS

OTTAWA, Ont.—On thirty Saskatchewan grain farms studied by I. F. Furniss, agricultural research officer of the Federal department of agriculture, costs of fuel, oil and grease were \$723 per farm, out of annual expenses totalling \$2,941. On ten live-stock farms studied, the cost of fuel, oil and grease amounted to an average of \$549 per farm out of an annual total expenses of \$2,112. On four mixed farms, fuel, oil, and grease cost \$401 out of a total of \$1,845.

"The Feeding Value of Damaged Grain," by Frank Whiting, of the Lethbridge Experimental Station, is a useful pamphlet, obtainable from the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

MUSTARD AND CRESS

By LIONEL SIDNEY CAIN.

Hello, Folks!

News item reports that the Iroquois are the first to abolish war.

Which just goes to prove they are still fighting for what they want.

ISN'T IT THE TRUTH?

Fern of Fernie postcards: "Even those who don't do any sowing at all can still reap a crop of thistles."

"University Players Planning Greek Drama" — news report.

"That's nothing," snorts the Bad Egg of Crow's Nest, "because an awful lot of dramas, even Dutch dramas, turn out to be Greek" anyway.

"Canada's Scandalous Scandal Sheets rake in over five million dollars yearly for Sex, Sin and Sensationalism," according to *Liberty*.

Of course, it's all very Sad, Serious and Silly and hard to Savvy!

A millionaire has just given his recipe for success. You simply put your

foot on the bottom rung of the ladder and climb to the top.

That guy, of course, could make it easier if he were to share some of his wealth.

We see by the papers that Churchill's latest portrait has aroused a storm.

So, maybe, not giving strict instructions to include the cigar may have been a serious omission from the commission to the artist.

SOME ROAR

Churchill says that in the most critical days of the war people of the British Commonwealth were the lion and he was only the lion's roar.

Never in the history of the leonine species did a roar accomplish so much for the preservation of the freedom of mankind.

"Some women are a pain" — headline in *Movie Fan*.

"The pain affecting the auditory nerve, of course," comments Wally, our incurable bach.

REVISED VERSION

"Every French soldier to be given one-quarter pint of milk daily as a temperance measure."

—news item.

You may lead the poilu to his milk ration but can even Mendes-France make him drink?

(Jim Wood assures us there'll be no trouble at all if the milk is Alpah. The poilus will soon be telling the sergeant-major to make it a pint when he brings their breakfast up to bed.—Editor.)

ANSWERING CORRESPONDENTS

Nan of Nanton asks us if we can supply her with a couple of six letter words, meaning heavily bodies, so that she can complete her cross-word puzzle.

We can, Nan, "Grable and Munroe."

A reader at Rocky Mountain House, Stephen O.M., advises us that when the residents of East Germany want to find out the time in West Germany they simply Adenauer!

"The mirth and gaiety of Christmas may soon die, the turkey and Scotch depart along with most of the cash, but the spirit of goodwill can remain," remarks Chuck of Chuckawalla.

"And it should be easy to keep it alive, Chuck, because it's in the cards, isn't it?"

GIFTS

Let whoso will
Give you the bread of life
While I bring for you
The sparkling wine
For your enjoyment—
The lilting music
And the brightly shining stars.

—Volodomir Barabash

ISN'T IT THE TRUTH?

Frequently the people we'd like to hear speak remain silent, while those we'd like to see silent are garrulous.

Chuck of Chuckawalla tells us he saw this sign in a Washington cigar store on a recent trip:

"Our ten cent cigars have now been reduced from twenty-five to fifteen cents."

"Cost of Living Still Rising," recent magazine headline.

The writer of this headline, apparently, forgot that news is any unusual happening!

"What makes things so sad," postcards Nan of Nanton, "is that although most of us are rich, we want money too."

French girls have style, chic, "toujours l'amour" and are the world's best entertainers, declares Denise Darcel in See magazine.

This is just Mr. Darcel's way of saying that French girls are interesting, but he gets around seven or eight cents a word for doing it.

"I have yet to meet an American with an inferiority complex," asserts Gen. Alfred M. Gruenthal.

Most other people are in the same boat!

But maybe being an American really is something to tell the world about, after all.

Recently, said poet Carl Sandburg, "What I need mainly is three things out of life. Possibly four. To be out of jail, to eat regularly; to get what I write printed, and then a little love at home and a little outside."

With luck he should be able to get a little love and stay out of jail, anyway.

RING OUT THE BELLS!

Safety Sam Says...



**The Best
Christmas Gift
of all...**

**YOU...SAFE
and SOUND!**

Drive carefully during the happy holiday season. Who knows? The new year may be the best you ever had. Drive...and live to see it through!

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REMEMBER...THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN

FARM WOMEN'S CONVENTION
(Continued from page 11)

during the prison term, so that when the prisoner is released he can find a job which helps him re-establish self respect.

Mrs. D. M. Stewart, president of the Edmonton Branch of the Association for Retarded Children, reviewed the problems of these "unfinished children." These are children whose IQ is such that they cannot benefit by the special classes held for children with subnormal intelligence.

Sixteen volunteers, two of whom are qualified teachers, teach forty-one of these children in temporary quarters in the Recreation Commission Building, for a period of fourteen hours a week. Through tremendous effort this organization has now obtained funds for a permanent school, they have purchased an army hut, and when school can be carried on five days a week, the Department of Education and the Edmonton School Board will share the cost of two school teachers.

High Percentage Rehabilitated

Eighty per cent of these children, it has been found, can be rehabilitated to self management and partial self support. Institutional care, which is the only alternative, deprives the child of the care and love of the parents. These children need home surroundings even more than normal children, Mrs. Stewart feels.

The provincial organization for Retarded Children now has branches in Edmonton, Calgary and Medicine Hat. They will interview parents from country points and assist them with advice regarding the home training of children who cannot attend school. Following Mrs. Stewart's talk, the FWUA delegates passed a resolution requesting the government to provide school facilities for the education of these children in other centres of the province, where the number of children justified it.

Mrs. W. Ross, Millet, reported for the Canadian Association of Consumers, and urged either single or group membership in this organization. She feels that there is a need for presenting the producers' side to this group which is not being met at present. She also reported for the Associated Countrywomen of the World and suggested locals study the history of this organization.

Brownlee Speaks on Laws

Hon. J. E. Brownlee, Q.C., General Manager of United Grain Growers, and Allan Brownlee, covered the field of What a Woman Should Know About the Laws. This informative talk was tape-recorded, as were the questions which were asked by FWUA members, so it will be available for further study.

Problems of the Aging

Dr. A. R. Schrapp, of the Edmonton Provincial Guidance Clinic, spoke on the Problems of the Aging. He described physical, mental and emotional changes which take place as people grow older. He finds elderly people often are happier with those of their own age group, and quite often this is not with the immediate family. A son and father always remember their family as being still children and subject to parental authority, which often causes conflict. Where it is necessary for aging parents to live with the younger generation, Dr. Schrapp urges they be given the privacy of a room. Where parents are in a home for the aged, he urges that letters, visits, recreation be maintained, as the family contact.

Junior President in Chair

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent with the Junior FWA with Harold Scheilke, of Carstairs, provincial president, in the chair. Reports were given by Miss Mabel Rasmussen and Bill Steiner, on their trip as exchange guests of the Scottish Young Farmers.

Walter Scheidt, junior director district 10, spoke on the monthly radio

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programs which are coming over CFAC. George Doupe of Oyen spoke on the leadership course at Banff. Information was given on the district debates which are to be concluded by January 31st. Hon. Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways, spoke on the need for farm and highway safety, and urged all young people to get proper training as motor drivers. He felt that many parents did not obey traffic rules and were a poor example for young drivers. Other guest speakers covered the Institute for the blind and United Nations.

To Publicize Scholarships

Under comprehensive topics and discussions on Education, it was requested that an Agricultural School be opened in the Irrigation District, also that a Central Scholarship Board be set up to consolidate all scholarships and publicize them so they will be used to best advantage.

Directors Give Papers

Directors gave special talks as follows: Mrs. Iftody gave the paper on Health, discussing Polio, Cerebral Palsy and other health problems. Mrs. R. Johnson reported on Federal Legislation and Mrs. F. Sissons on Provincial Legislation. Mrs. V. Lawrence discussed Social Welfare and Mrs. Anna Drysdale, Education. Mrs. Simpson told how to understand World Neighbors and Mrs. K. MacLachlan dealt with Cultural Activities, while Mrs. Mathison reported on Young People's Activities and Mrs. Keast on Handicrafts.

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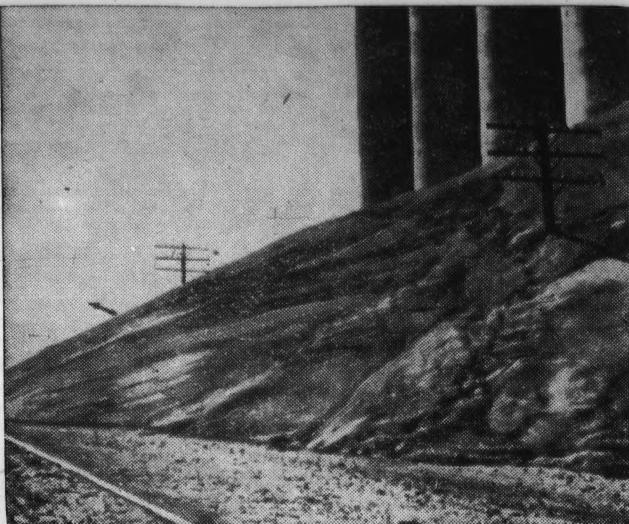
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There was no space left to put this mountain of grain when deliveries filled the elevators, so operator Joe Pitman started dumping the foodstuff along the railroad siding at Liberal, Kansas. When some 90,000 bushels piled up, two telegraph poles were snapped, bringing a promise of boxcars to move the grain.

YOUR GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN ALBERTA

The Department of Public Works was organized in 1906, about a year after Alberta was formed as a Province. Its functions today are divided into two categories—the construction and the maintenance of public buildings. Construction includes planning and supervising the erection of large buildings and the actual construction work on smaller projects. Maintenance covers a wide variety of activities including the manufacture and repair of office furniture, cleaning and maintenance of government buildings, care of grounds, the maintenance and servicing of government vehicles.

By the end of 1953, the Department held ownership, in the name of the Minister of Public Works, to 871 buildings throughout the Province. These range from such impressive structures as the Legislative, Natural Resources and Administration Buildings in Edmonton to modest forestry cabins scattered through the western and northern sections of Alberta. The Agricultural schools, the Institute of Technology and Art in Calgary, the Sanitoria, Court Houses, and Titles' Offices, Jails, Mental Hospitals, Treasury Branches and Liquor Stores are other examples of public buildings coming under the jurisdiction of the Department.

Within the past few years the Department has adopted a policy of centralizing Alberta Government offices for the convenience of the public. This is being carried out with the construction of "Provincial Buildings" in many towns and smaller cities throughout Alberta.

Construction work by the Department today is usually confined to institutions and smaller undertakings, while the larger projects are handled by tender. In certain cases, key craftsmen are sent from Edmonton, and other necessary labor is hired locally.

During 1953, the total expenditure for buildings and maintenance by the Department totalled \$10,467,034. Of this sum, about 71 percent was for construction, 23 percent for maintenance, and six percent for furnishings and equipment.

Over the years from 1948 to 1953, the amount expended on construction

was \$32,708,000, for maintenance \$11,286,000, with \$3,222,578 spent on furnishings and equipment. The total for the six years was \$47,216,490.

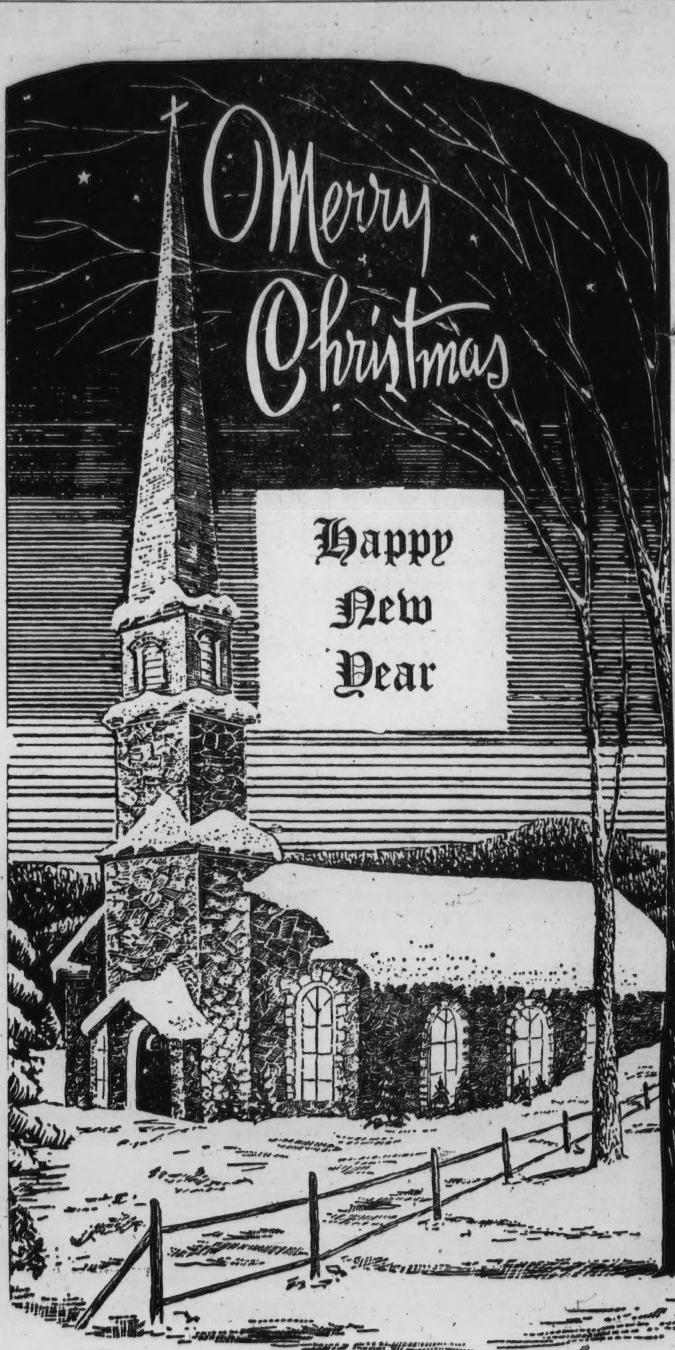
These expenditures provided and equipped many public buildings for which an urgent need had long been apparent, and included Provincial Buildings at seven Alberta centers; Engineering Building, Rutherford Library and Students' Union Building at the University of Alberta; the Fairview School of Agriculture; Aberhart Memorial Sanitorium; Alberta Office Building, Calgary; Civil Defence Building, Edmonton; Cancer Clinic, Cerebral Palsy Clinic, New Land Titles' Building and the Administration Building also located in Edmonton.

Under the Maintenance Branch of the Department comes a large number of carpenters, electricians, plumbers, caretakers and groundsmen. The Carpenter shop turns out about \$10,000 worth of furniture for government offices each month. The Paint Shop maintains a staff of 24 persons, while about 12 men are employed in the metal shop of the Department. Fourteen plumbers are responsible for the maintenance of plumbing and heating in Government buildings, and about 20 electricians, apprentices and helpers are required to carry out wiring on new construction as well as to maintain and repair wiring in existing offices.

The Department of Public Works employs about 942 people for the construction and maintenance of Alberta Government Buildings scattered throughout the Province. Upon them falls the responsibility of providing public buildings and giving these buildings the care they require.

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